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Jay R. Spector Executive Director Date: June 21, 2004

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Mt. Lemmon Domestic Water Improvement District Receives WIFA Project of the Year

TUCSON – Water Infrastructure Finance Authority of Arizona Executive Director Jay Spector presented the WIFA Project of the Year award to the Mt. Lemmon Domestic Water Improvement District on Friday, June 18 during the Aspen Ball.

The Mt. Lemmon Domestic Water Improvement District received the "Best Partnership Project of the Year" award for exemplary efforts by community leaders, county, state and federal officials who rebuilt community infrastructure, including the drinking water system after the Aspen Fire of June and July 2003.

"WIFA is very pleased with the success of the Mt. Lemmon Domestic Water Improvement District," said Spector. "As a state agency, we take pride in funding projects which bring communities together to solve challenges, particularly in the face of a crisis like the Aspen Fire."

WIFA provided a \$9,000 technical assistance grant to the water district. Chairman of the Mt. Lemmon Domestic Water Improvement District, Ed Roll, accepted the award.

The WIFA Project of the Year awards are given to outstanding WIFA funded projects as demonstrated by their performance in resolving water quality issues, securing public support and cooperative funding efforts. The 2003 WIFA Project of the Year Awards are selected by the WIFA Board of Directors and are awarded each funding cycle, which is based on the fiscal year.

The Aspen Ball was organized by community representatives to aid in rebuilding infrastructure on Mt. Lemmon. The event was held at the Tucson Hilton East on the first anniversary of the Aspen Fire. Proceeds from the dinner and silent auction benefit Trees for Mt. Lemmon, the Mt. Lemmon Fire Department and the Mt. Lemmon Water District. Event planners look forward to holding the Aspen Ball annually.